I Believe in You:

Lonely Children

by Miura Noriko

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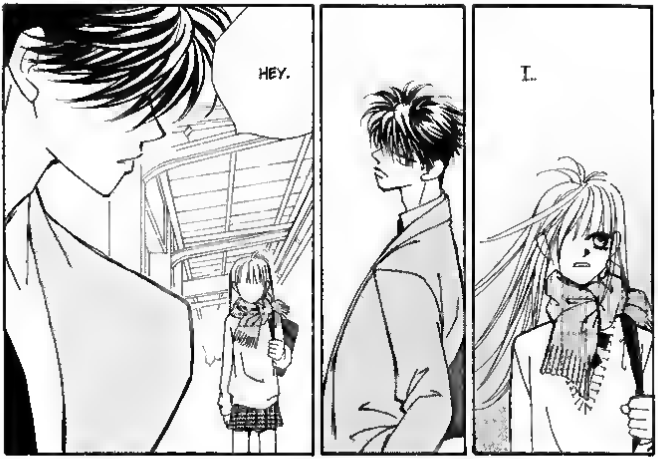
SPLASH
LOOK, LOOK!
A POLAR BEAR!
WOW!
WHAT'S NEXT?
THE PEN-GUIN PARADE!

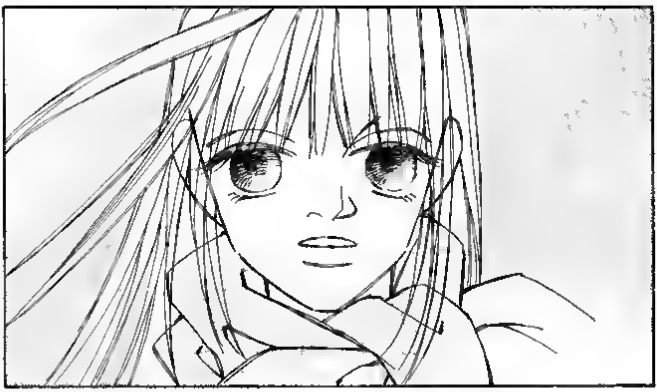
THUMP
Huh.
Why?
THUMP
THUMP

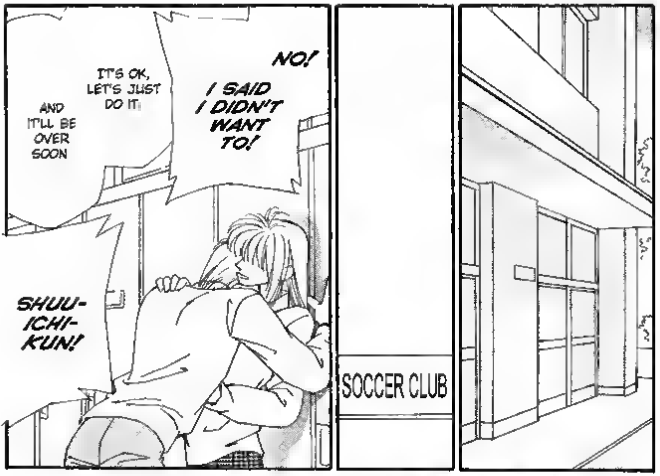
AHHH!
BUMP
No way
MAA-KUN!
HEY, YOU! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
ARE YOU HURT, MAA-KUN?!
SO—
SORRY.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO HIM, I'LL BE HOLDING YOU RESPONSIBLE!

THAT KID WASN'T LOOKING AT WHERE HE WAS RUNNING TO.
IF YOU'RE HIS PARENT, YOU SHOULD KEEP A BETTER EYE ON HIM.
IF THERE'S SOMEONE WHO SHOULD TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY HERE
IT'S YOU, MA'AM.
REALLY
WHA-?!
WE'RE GOING, MAA-KUN!
HOW RUDE!

...What should I do?


HEY.
I.

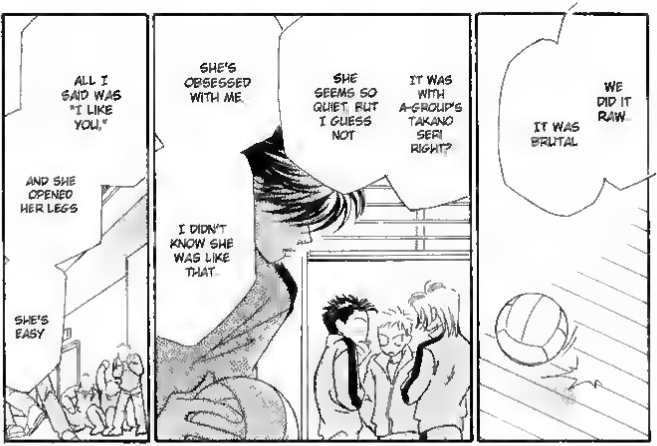



NO!
I SAID I DIDN'T WANT TO!
IT'S OK, LET'S JUST DO IT
AND IT'LL BE OVER SOON
SHUU-ICHI-KUN!
SOCCER CLUB

SHUU...
I LOVE YOU
IF YOU SHOUT OTHER PEOPLE MIGHT COME
gyp

CRAP.
I'VE GOT P. E. CLASS NEXT.
I'M GONNA GO.
HERE IS THE KEY.
SEE YA.

"I LIKE YOU."
"I LOVE YOU."
LIES.
ALL OF IT.


ALL I SAID WAS "I LIKE YOU,"
AND SHE OPENED HER LEGS
SHE'S EASY
SHE'S OBSESSED WITH ME.
I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS LIKE THAT.
SHE SEEMS SO QUIET. BUT I GUESS NOT
IT WAS WITH A-GROUP'S TAKANO SERI RIGHT?
IT WAS BRUTAL
WE DID IT RAW.

I EXPECTED HER TO BE UNWILLING
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
A THREE-SOME
WONDER IF SHE'D DO
SHE'LL LET ME DO IT NEXT TIME, TOO.

HUH
tap
SHE DOES WHAT SHE'S TOLD
IF I SAY, "I LOVE YOU."
IT'S OK

WHACK
YA-SHIMA!
STOP!
STOP!!
CHATTER
CHATTER

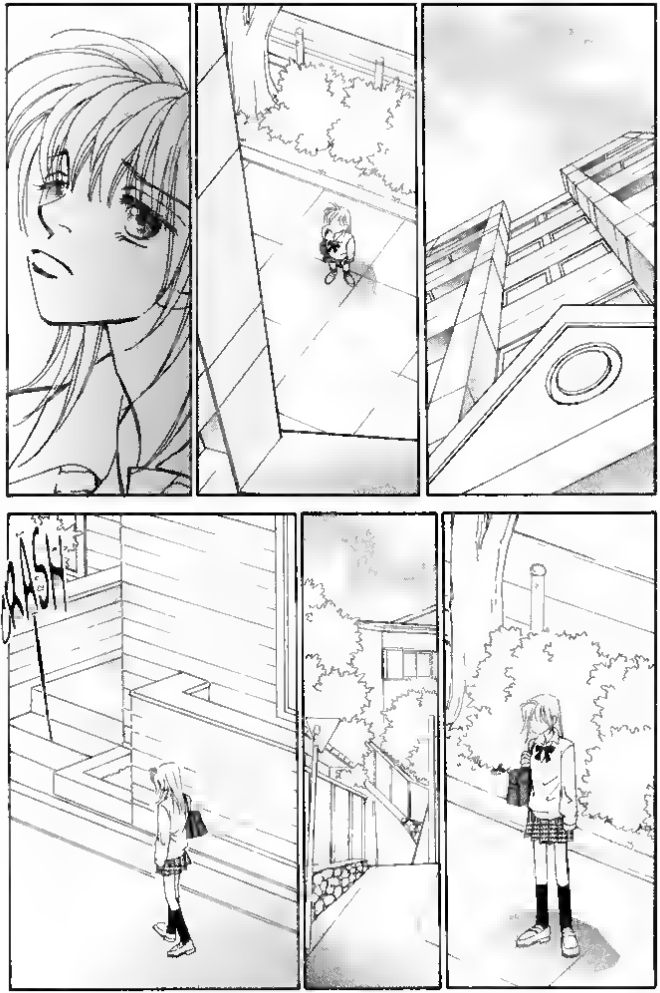
2—A
ALL RIGHT
SERI,
WHERE WERE YOU?!
IT'S TERRI-BLE!
HAPPEN?
DID SOME-THING
CHATTER
CHATTER
?

HUH?
WHY DID YOU...
PUNCH HARADA?
PE STAFF ROOM
...

YASHIMA-KUN WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT
THAT'S A LIE!
HE JUST PUNCHED ME OUT OF THE BLUE!
THERE WAS NO REASON!
THAT'S WHAT I KEEP TELLING YOU...
SCHOOL INFIRMARY
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GUY MORE THAN ME?
WHAT IS THIS?

YA-SHIMA-KUN!
MY SUS-PENSION IS FOR THREE DAYS
THAT STRICT?
YEAH
I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU
I CAN TAKE NOTES FOR YOU.
..
WHAT HAPPEN-ED?

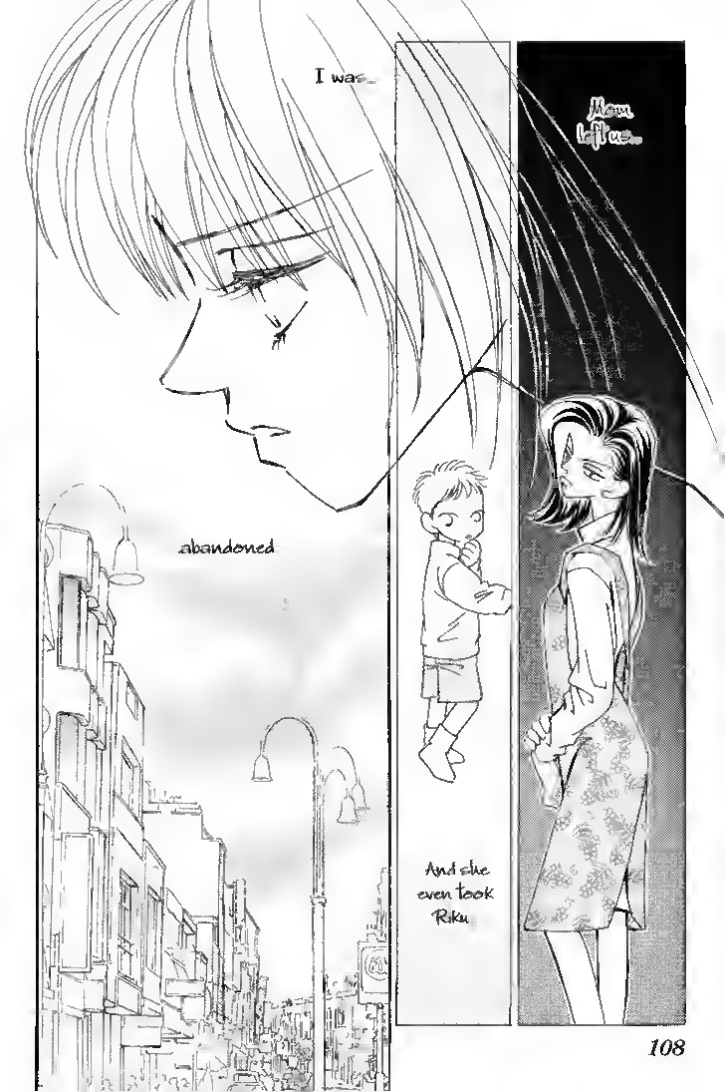
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS
Brrr
Brrr

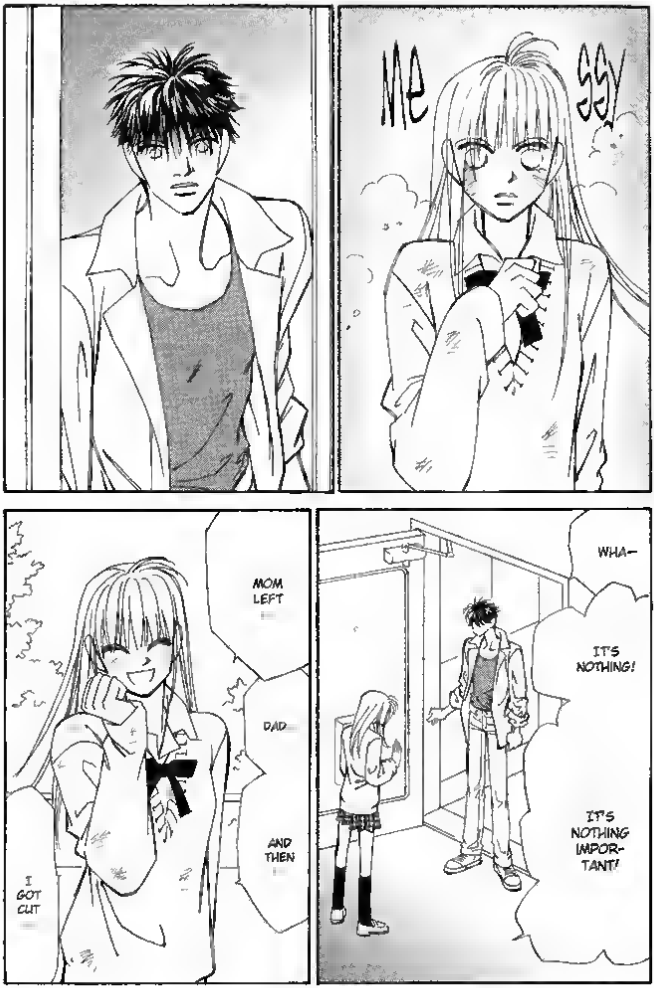

CRASH

DAD!
CRASH!
DAD!
STOP!

YOUR MOM ...LEFT
huff huff
SHE HOOKED UP WITH A GUY ...AND TOOK RIKU
SHE LEFT!

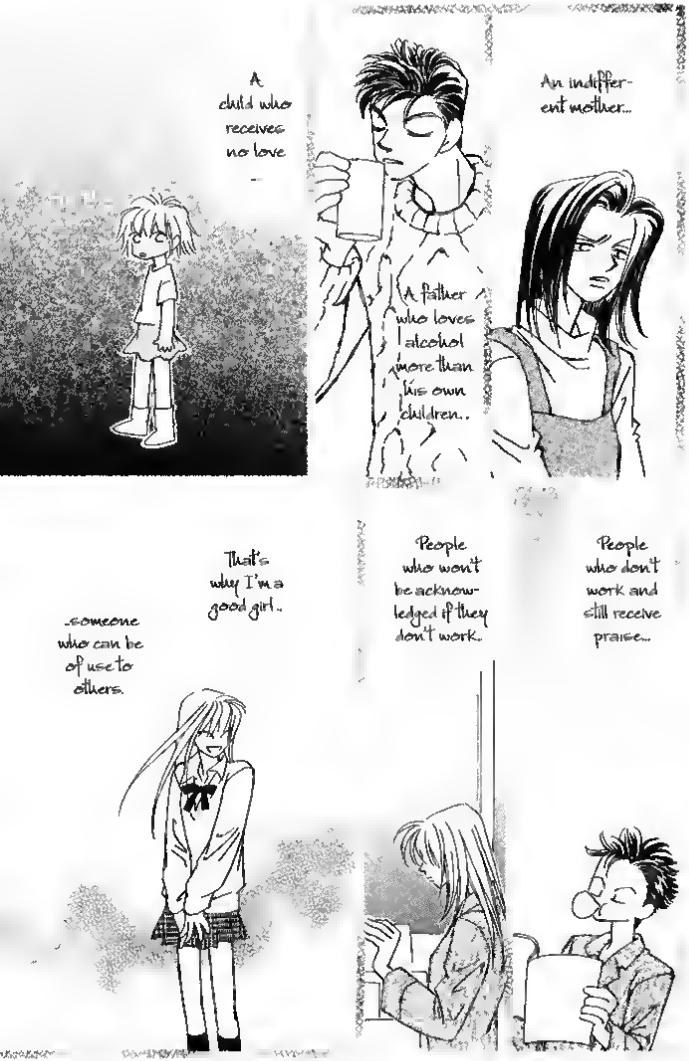
I BET YOU KNEW ABOUT IT
I DIDN'T KNOW
YOU DESPISE ME!
YOU ALWAYS LOOK AT ME LIKE I'M STUPID!
NO...
YOU ACT LIKE I'M STUPID!
HOW DARE YOU ACT LIKE I'M STUPID?!
SLAP
SLAP


I was...
Mom left me...
abandoned
And she even took Riku


Me
SSY
MOM LEFT
DAD
AND THEN
I GOT CUT
WHA-
IT'S NOTHING!
IT'S NOTHING IMPOR-TANT!

HOW CAN YOU SAY IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT?
SOME-THING LIKE THAT
IDIOT.

SQUEEZE

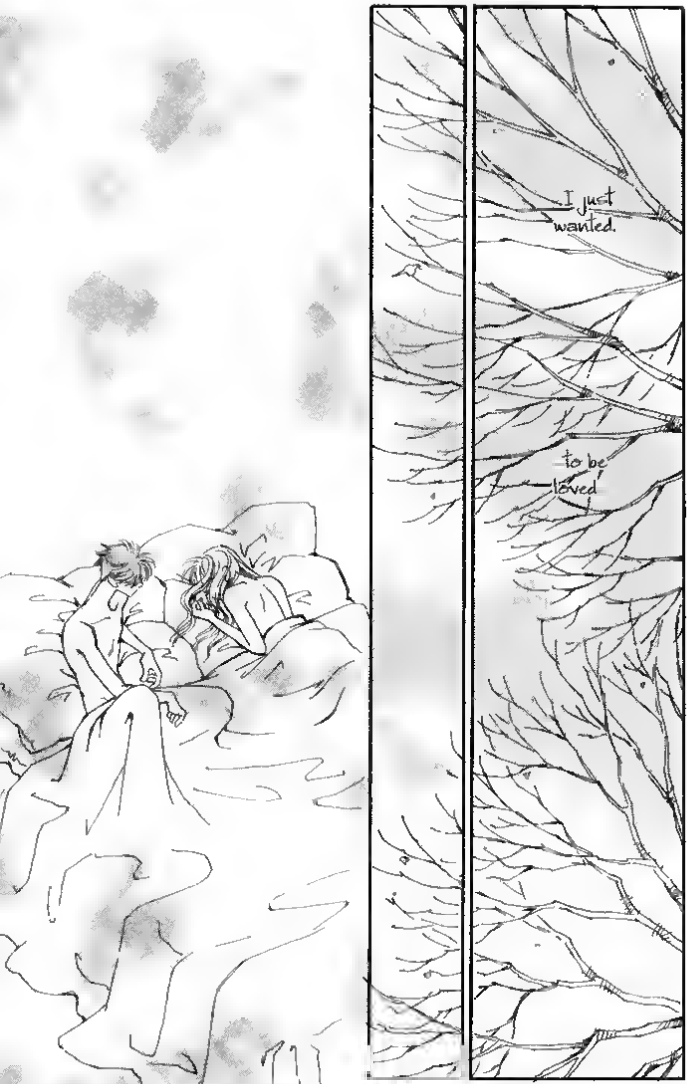

A child who receives no love...
An indifferent mother...
A father who loves alcohol more than his own children...
People who don't work and still receive praise...
People who won't be acknowledged if they don't work...
That's why I'm a good girl...
someone who can be of use to others.

Because I'm not someone who's loved..

If I'm not a good girl

If I'm not someone who's useful to others

I'll be abandoned


I just wanted.
to be loved

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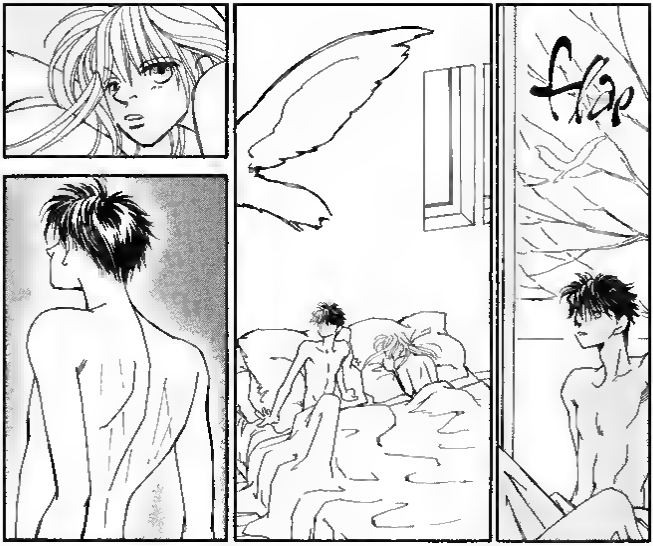
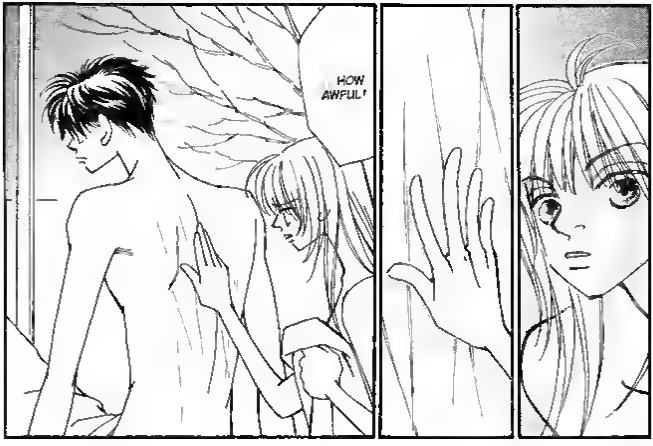
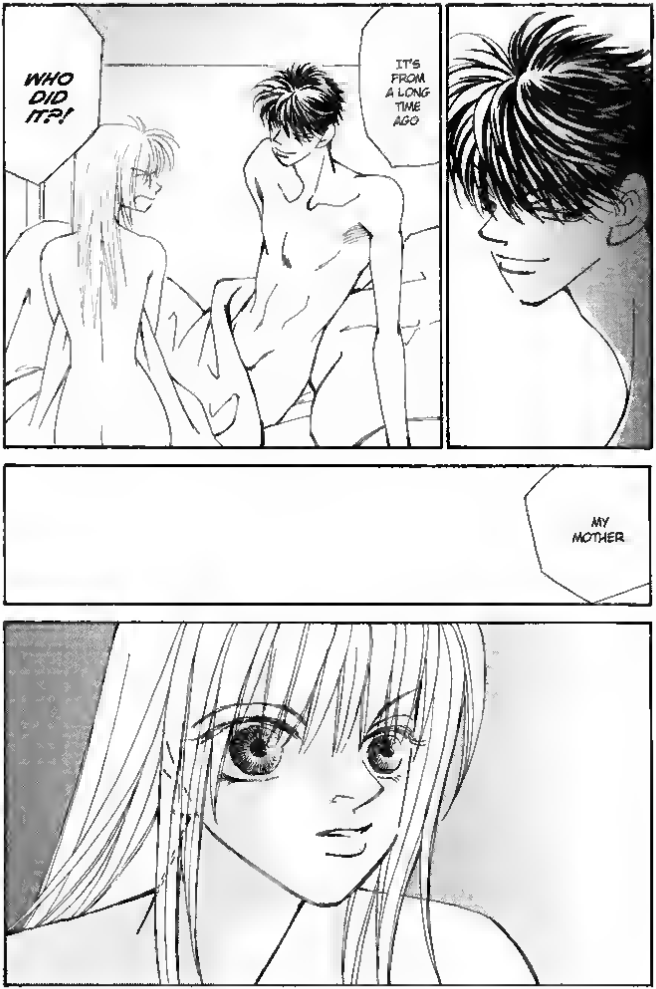
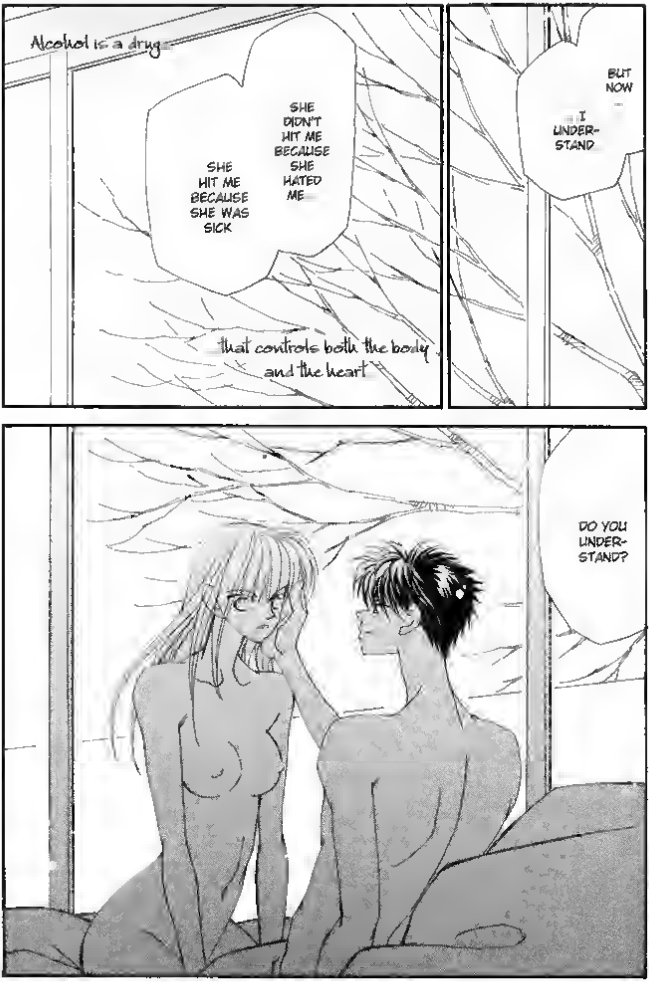

Flap


HOW AWFUL!


WHO DID IT?!
IT'S FROM A LONG TIME AGO
MY MOTHER

SHE WAS A KIND MOTHER.
BUT WHEN SHE WASN'T DRINKING
MOTHER WOULD DRINK A LOT
WHEN SHE WAS DUMPED SHE WOULD BLAME IT ON ME
AND BEAT ME
HOWEVER, SHE WAS RARELY
IN A SOBER STATE

WHERE IS SHE NOW?
WHEN I WAS SEVEN,
SHE WENT DRIVING WHILE DRUNK
SHE WAS KILLED INSTANT-LY
ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE
IS AN ILLNESS.


Alcohol is a drug
SHE HIT ME BECAUSE SHE WAS SICK
SHE DIDN'T HIT ME BECAUSE SHE HATED ME
that controls both the body and the heart
BUT NOW I UNDER-STAND
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT
YOU ARE NOT LOVED
SERI'
SERI'
PAPA'

SERI IS
DADDY'S LITTLE PRINCESS!

AH...
SHOVE
I'VE GOTTA GO HOME
TAKANO?
MY DAD SHOULD'VE CALMED DOWN BY NOW
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM LIKE THAT

NO, IT'S OK!
I'LL WALK YOU HOME

THANK YOU.
SLAM

YOU ARE TOO KIND
YASHIMA-KUN
YOU'LL GIVE ME THE WRONG IDEA

I SHOULD HAVE BEATEN HIM UP SOME MORE
"SHE'S OBSESSED WITH ME."

HUH?!
MOM!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
ARE YOU COMING BACK?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I JUST TOOK RIKU TO THE DENTIST.
HUH?!
BUT...
DAD SAID...
DID HE SAY I LEFT WITH ANOTHER GUY?
Y-
YEAH.
STUPID!
THAT WAS THE IMAGINATION OF A DRUNKEN MAN.
TO BELIEVE THAT.
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
IDIOT!
IF I HAD REALLY LEFT
I WOULD HAVE TAKEN YOU WITH ME

OF COURSE.
YOU WOULD? BRING ME WITH YOU?
THAT IF YOU LEFT...
WHAT?
REALLY?
WHAT?
SUCH A STRANGE CHILD

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
MOM. .
WHAT?
DAD...
IS AN ALCO-HOLIC
AM I WRONG?
SERI!

NO, YOU'RE RIGHT

SLAM
SNORE
SNORE
ASK
ALCOHOL DRUG PROBLEMS
MENTAL AND HEALTH WELFARE
ALCOHOL CONSULTATION
AA
JAPAN SERVICE OF
HELLO
I WOULD LIKE TO ASK FOR ADVICE
—RE-GARDING MY HUS-BAND'S DRINKING PROBLEM

I.
I APOLOGIZE FOR YESTERDAY
MY BAD
SORRY
HEY, CHEER UP!
SHUUICHI-KUN, I LIKE YOU
ME, TOO.
BUT
I REALIZED
I ONLY LIKED YOU BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME YOU LIKED ME
THAT

IF YOU HADN'T TOLD ME YOU LIKED ME
I WOULDN'T HAVE LIKED YOU
BUT,
WITH YASHIMA-KUN IT'S DIFFERENT...
YASHIMA-KUN DOESN'T LIKE ME
BUT
I LIKE HIM.

I HEARD THAT YASHIMA AND HARADA GOT INTO A FIGHT OVER YOU, SERI
DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE YASHIMA INCIDENT YESTERDAY?
I THOUGHT SO!
YEAH.
SERI,
DID YOU BREAK UP WITH HARADA?
NO WAY!
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE
NEXT TIME I'LL DEFI-NITELY TAKE OVER YOUR CLEANING DUTY WHEN IT'S YOUR TURN,
COULD YOU DO MY CLEANING DUTY TODAY?
I'M SORRY BUT
SO PLEASE!
TAKANO-SAN!
AH, I SEE
YASHIMA ALREADY HAS A LOVEY DOVEY GIRL-FRIEND.
THEN WHY WAS YASHIMA SO ANGRY YESTER-DAY?
YASHIMA IS A MYSTERY

BUT YOU SHOULD DO YOUR OWN WORK.
I'M SORRY
I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT
I
I SAID IT—
THUMP THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
NO WAY!!

WHA—
YASHIMA'S HERE.
HE'S SUSPENDED.
BUT...
IT'S YASHIMA.
PRM

I WANTED TO COME CLEAN WITH WHAT HAPPENED
IF YOU ARE DISCOVERED, IT'LL BE BAD!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU'RE ON SUSPENSION!
WHA—
huff huff
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
whEEel
whEEel
whEEel
whEEel
SHOCK
I KNOW!
ABOUT YESTERDAY...
YOU WERE JUST SYMPATHIZING WITH ME!
STOP!

SINCE I LIKE YOU, I WAS HAPPY
BUT,
SYMPA-THIZING?
I JUST LIKE YOU
SO...
I WASN'T THINK-ING OF ASKING YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME,
I KNOW YOU ALREADY HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND !!
YOU LIKE ME ?!
LIKE ?!
SO DON'T WORRY !!

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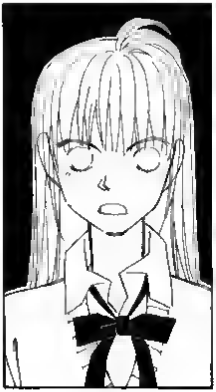
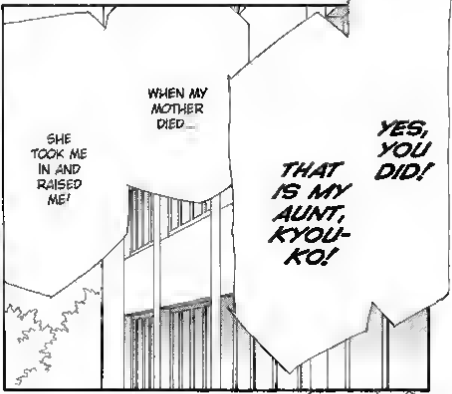
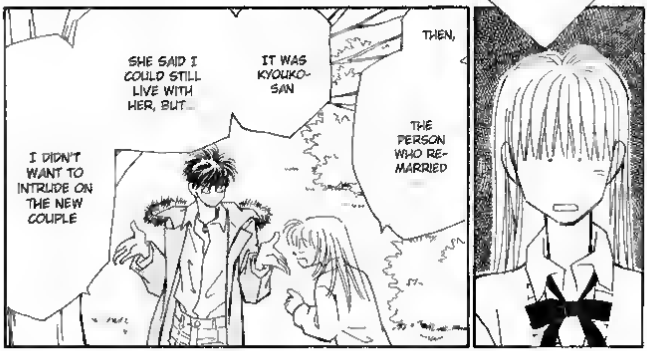



WHEN MY MOTHER DIED...
SHE TOOK ME IN AND RAISED ME!
YES, YOU DID!
THAT IS MY AUNT, KYOU-KO!

SHE MAY LOOK YOUNG
BUT SHE'S IN HER LATE THIRTIES
Give me a break!
BUT...
NO WAY !!
H-
HUH ?!


SHE SAID I COULD STILL LIVE WITH HER, BUT...
IT WAS KYOUKO-SAN
THEN,
THE PERSON WHO RE-MARRIED
I DIDN'T WANT TO INTRUDE ON THE NEW COUPLE

YOU THOUGHT I WAS THE KIND OF GUY
WHO WOULD TOUCH ANOTHER GIRL
IN OTHER WORDS
WHEN I WAS ALREADY GOING OUT WITH ONE?
I'LL
ONLY SLEEP WITH THE GIRL I LIKE
I'M SORRY !!

HUH?
SO
MANGATUBE.COM

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
BELIEVE IT...

I BE-LIEVE IN YOU —

MORE THAN I DO IN MYSELF

<The End>